

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

USSS-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-15 OPR-02 AF-10 DRC-01 /146 W

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O 131155Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5166

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DNAHLAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 4451

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD AND CAIRO

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR AKINS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, SA, US, XF

SUBJ: MOVEMENT SAG BRIGADE

SUMMARY: IF SAUDI TROOPS IN SYRIA BECOME ENGAGED IN HOSTILITIES, OR IF SAG ANNOUNCES FORMAL STATE OF BEL- LIGERENCY WITH ISRAEL, WOULD RECOMMEND THAT USG URGE ISRAEL NOT TO RETALIATE AGAINST TARGETS IN SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS SAUDI BRIGADE, NOW MOVING THROUGH JORDAN, THOUGH TO BE HEADING TO SOUTH SYRIA TO JOIN JAA TROOPS AT POSITIONS SOUTH OF ISRAELI/SYRIAN BATTLE LINE. SAUDIS, LIKE JORDANIANS, ARE SENDING SOLDIERS WITH

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EYE AT LEAST AS MUCH ON POLITICAL AS ON MILITARY SIT-

UATION, AND MOVEMENT OF SAUDI BRIGADE IS PROBABLY MINIMUM RESPONSE SAG FEELS IT CAN GET AWAY WITH IN TIME OF INCREASING POLITICAL PRESSURES.

2. IN TERMS OF TEMPER OF SAUDI OPINION, IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF IDF WOULD NOT INITIATE ACTION AGAINST SAUDIS, THOUGH WE COULD HARDLY EXPECT ISRAELIS TO GIVE US SUCH A COMMITMENT. IF SUCH COMBAT DOES TAKE PLACE, HOWEVER, OR IF SAUDI ARABIA MAKES PUBLIC STATEMENTS FORMALLY PROCLAIMING BELLIGERENCY, REQUEST THAT GOI BE URGED NOT TO INITIATE ATTACK AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF.

3. WE CONCERNED SPECIFICALLY IAF MIGHT ATTACK TABUK, SAG MILITARY BASE NEAR JORDANIAN BORDER FROM WHICH SAUDI BRIGADE DEPARTED. (A NUMBER OF U.S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ARE LIVING IN TABUK, AS WELL AS OTHER EUROPEANS MAINLY FRENCH.) DEPARTMENT COULD ALSO POINT OUT TO GOI THAT RADAR SYSTEM ON HILL NEAR TABUK HAS NO LONG-RANGE AIR-CRAFT UTILITY AND CAN ONLY BE USED AS PART OF AIR DEFENSE/ HAWK MISSILE SYSTEM.

4. WOULD ADD SOMEWHAT OBVIOUSLY THAT ISRAELI ATTACK AGAINST TABUK OR AGAINST ANY POINT IN SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF WOULD PROMPT LOCAL DEMANDS FOR SAG ESCALATION AND RETALIATORY ACTION THAT MIGHT EASILY SPILL OVER INTO INTERESTS OF U.S. HORAN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD AND CAIRO.

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NNN

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